RCS
Refrigerated Cooling System

Q Series™
Getting Started Guide
Notice

The material contained in this manual, and in the online help for the software used to support this instrument, is believed adequate for the intended use of the instrument. If the instrument or procedures are used for purposes other than those specified herein, confirmation of their suitability must be obtained from TA Instruments. Otherwise, TA Instruments does not guarantee any results and assumes no obligation or liability. TA Instruments also reserves the right to revise this document and to make changes without notice.

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# Table of Contents

Important: TA Instruments Manual Supplement ........................................................................................................ 3

Table of Contents ............................................................................................................................................................. 4

Notes, Cautions, and Warnings .................................................................................................................................... 5

Regulatory Compliance .................................................................................................................................................. 6
  Safety Standards .......................................................................................................................................................... 6
  Electromagnetic Compatibility Standards ............................................................................................................ 6

Safety ................................................................................................................................................................................. 7
  Electrical Safety ........................................................................................................................................................ 7
  Water Condensation ................................................................................................................................................ 7
  Thermal Safety .......................................................................................................................................................... 8
  Temperature Range .................................................................................................................................................. 8

Chapter 1: Introducing the RCS ................................................................................................................................... 9
  Overview .......................................................................................................................................................................... 9
  Specifications ................................................................................................................................................................. 10

Chapter 2: Installing the RCS ..................................................................................................................................... 11
  Mounting the RCS Cooling Head ................................................................................................................................ 11
  Connecting the Base and RCS Purge Lines ................................................................................................................ 14
  Starting the RCS ............................................................................................................................................................. 15
  Conditioning the RCS System ...................................................................................................................................... 16
    Step 1: Drying the System ..................................................................................................................................... 16
    Step 2: Stabilizing the System .............................................................................................................................. 17

Chapter 3: Use & Maintenance ................................................................................................................................. 19
  Guidelines When Using the RCS ................................................................................................................................ 19
  Maintaining the RCS .................................................................................................................................................... 20
    Cleaning the RCS ................................................................................................................................................... 20
    Replacing the RCS Fuses ....................................................................................................................................... 20

Parts List ......................................................................................................................................................................... 21

Index ............................................................................................................................................................................... 23
Notes, Cautions, and Warnings

This manual uses NOTES, CAUTIONS, and WARNINGS to emphasize important and critical instructions.

A NOTE highlights important information about equipment or procedures.

A CAUTION emphasizes a procedure that may damage equipment or cause loss of data if not followed correctly.

A WARNING indicates a procedure that may be hazardous to the operator or to the environment if not followed correctly.
Regulatory Compliance

Safety Standards

For Canada:


EN61010-1: 1993 Safety requirements for electrical equipment for measurement, control, and laboratory use, Part 1: General Requirements + Amendments.

For the United States:

UL3101-1 Electrical Equipment for Laboratory Use; Part 1: General Requirements.

Electromagnetic Compatibility Standards

For Australia and New Zealand:

AS/NZS 2064: 1997 Limits and methods of measurement of electronic disturbance characteristics of industrial, scientific and medical (ISM) radiofrequency equipment.

For Canada:


EN61326-1: 1997 Electrical equipment for measurement, control, and laboratory use-EMC requirements-Part 1: General Requirements + Amendments (for class A equipment).

For the United States:

CFR Title 47 Telecommunication Chapter I Federal Communications Commission, Part 15 Radio frequency devices (FCC regulation pertaining to radiofrequency emissions).
Safety

CAUTION: The operator of this instrument is advised that if the equipment is used in a manner not specified in this manual, the safety protection designed into the equipment may be impaired.

CAUTION: Due to the size and weight of the cooling accessory, the RCS should always be lifted by two people to prevent injury. Do not slide the RCS as this may damage the feet on the unit. Use two people to lift the RCS when moving it to another position.

CAUTION: The cooling head assembly contains coated fiberfrax material. Excessive handling of this material could cause fiberfrax particles to be emitted into the air. See the MSDS sheet for safety measures to be observed when fiberfrax is used.

CAUTION: The RCS contains hazardous materials (i.e., flammable refrigerants). Contact TA Instruments prior to packaging for shipment.

Electrical Safety

You must unplug the instrument before doing any maintenance or repair work; voltages as high as 120/240 volts AC are present in this system.

WARNING: High voltages are present in this instrument. Maintenance and repair of internal parts must be performed only by TA Instruments or other qualified service personnel.

Water Condensation

WARNING: Some of the DSC and RCS surfaces get cold during use of the RCS. The cold surfaces can cause condensation and, in some cases, frost to build up. This condensation may drip to the floor. Provisions to keep the floor dry should be made. A slipping hazard may result if the condensation is not cleaned up.
Thermal Safety

The cell surfaces can be hot enough to burn the skin during a sample run. If you are conducting a subambient test on the DSC, cold could also cause injury. After running any type of experiment, you must allow the DSC cell to return to room temperature before you touch the inner cell surfaces.

**CAUTION:** Some surfaces of the RCS and DSC system may get extremely cold during the use of the RCS for cooling experiments. This presents a danger to exposed skin coming in contact with and adhering to the cold surfaces. We recommend that you do not remove the DSC lids when the instrument is at subambient temperatures to prevent moisture buildup in the system. However, if you do remove the lids or handle any cold surfaces, use forceps or gloves to prevent injury.

Temperature Range

**WARNING:** Do not exceed 100°C with the RCS cooling head installed and the RCS power off. Serious damage and/or injury could occur.

**CAUTION:** We recommend that you do not use the RCS when running isothermal experiments above 400°C. Damage to the unit can occur if used at high temperatures for extended periods.
Overview

The Refrigerated Cooling System (RCS), which is used to cool DSC experiments, consists of a two-stage, cascade, vapor compression refrigeration system with an attached cooling head. See the figure to the right. The cooling head, which is made up of an internal heat exchanger, anti-condensate heaters, and various other components, fits over the DSC cell. The RCS can be used for experiments requiring cooling within an operating range of -90°C to 550°C. The maximum rate of cooling depends on the temperature range of your experiment.

CAUTION: The RCS is not compatible with the accessory outlets on the back of the instrument due to its power requirements.
Specifications

The specifications in Tables 1 and 2 apply to the Refrigerated Cooling System.

Table 1
Technical Specifications

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Specification</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Size</td>
<td>46 cm (18 in.) high by 26 cm (10 in.) wide by 51 cm (20 in.) deep.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Power requirements</td>
<td>120 Vac/12 A/60 Hz or 220 Vac/6 A/50 Hz (depending on the RCS model)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weight</td>
<td>47.7 kg (105 lbs)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cooling capacity</td>
<td>–90°C with all instruments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feed hose</td>
<td>120 centimeters (4 ft) insulated from RCS to cooling head.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refrigerants</td>
<td>Ethylene, propylene</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clearance</td>
<td>Additional clearance 45 to 60 cm (18 to 24 inches) is recommended above</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>the RCS to allow routing of the cooling line to the instrument without</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>putting undue stress on the line. Additional clearance 15 to 30 cm (6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>to 12 inches) is also recommended at the back and on the two sides to</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>allow adequate dissipation of heat from the RCS condenser.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Operating Environment Conditions | Temperature: 15–30°C  
                      | Relative Humidity:  5–80 % (non-condensing)  
                      | Installation Category II  
                      | Pollution Degree 2  
                      | Maximum Altitude: 2000 m (6560 ft)                                 |

Table 2 shows the performance specifications for RCS/DSC cooling.

Table 2
RCS/DSC Performance Specifications

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Temperature Range</th>
<th>–90°C to 550°C</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Linear Cooling Rates</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cooling rates available will vary depending on the temperature range. As a general guideline, cooling rates greater than 45°C/minute can be achieved over the range 400 to 100°C and cooling rates of 5°C/minute can be achieved over the range 400 to –70°C.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ballistic Cooling</td>
<td>Ambient to –90°C 15 to 18 minutes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CAUTION: We recommend that you do not use the RCS when running isothermal experiments above 400°C. Damage to the unit can occur if used at high temperatures for extended periods.
Chapter 2
Installing the RCS

Installation of the RCS includes mounting the cooling head assembly on the DSC cell, connecting a base purge gas to the DSC and conditioning the system to remove moisture. Each of these steps is described in the following sections.

CAUTION: Due to the size and weight of the cooling accessory, the RCS should always be lifted by two people to prevent injury. Do not slide the RCS as this may damage the feet on the unit. Use two people to lift the RCS when moving it to another position.

Mounting the RCS Cooling Head

The RCS unit connects to the DSC cell via a cooling head. This cooling head is made up of an internal heat exchanger, anti-condensate heaters, and various other components. The following steps describe the procedure for making the connection between the DSC and the RCS unit.

NOTE: Since the RCS creates cold surfaces that could serve as condensation sites for any moisture which is present, it is important that the conditioning procedure described on page 16 be followed when initially mounting the RCS cooling head or anytime the cooling head is removed and remounted.

1. Remove the lid(s). Manually remove the lids for the DSC Q10 or select the Control/Lid/Open function to raise the AutoLid from the Q100 or Q1000 cell and cause it to move out of the way.

2. Pull the plug on the side of the cover out to remove it. Then remove the screws attaching the cell cover to the unit cover (see the figure to the right). Three screws are located on the side (Q1000) and one is located on the top. Retain the screws.

3. If your instrument has an Autosampler installed, lift up the cover to release the tabs and pull the cover towards you to remove it fully (shown in the figure to the left).

If you do not have an Autosampler, you will have to remove additional screws to release the cover. Then pull the cover towards you to remove it fully. The cell will be exposed.
NOTE: For optimum performance it is important that the cell and RCS surfaces not be damaged or compromised.

4. Verify that the DSC cell’s two surfaces on the top of the silver block are not damaged or compromised. If any irregularities such as dents, buildup, contaminants, or oxidation are observed in the silver, redress the surfaces until smooth, flat, and clean. (Contact your local TA Instruments Service Representative for details on redressing the cell.)

5. Verify that the DSC cell cooling flange and the matching surface of the RCS cooling head are not damaged or compromised. If any irregularities such as dents, buildup, contaminants, or oxidation are observed, redress the mating surfaces until smooth, flat, and clean. (Contact your local TA Instruments Service Representative for details on redressing the cell.)

6. Position the RCS refrigeration unit to the left of the DSC.

NOTE: For the most effective operation the RCS should be on a separate bench and at the same level as the DSC. Mounting the RCS below the level of the DSC will deteriorate cooling performance.

7. Align the pin on the cell base (shown in the figure to the right) with the corresponding slot in the RCS cooling head and carefully lower the cooling head over the cell. Be particularly careful to avoid bumping the top surface of the cell with the cooling head. Any damage to the cell surface could adversely affect subsequent performance.

8. Make sure that the bottom of the cooling head fully seats on the cell base plate. If it does not, check the Teflon® ring in the cooling head for damage. Replace the ring, if needed.


10. Insert the tip of the wrench into any one of the three captive screws in the RCS plate while holding onto the cooling head. (See the figure to the right.) You will need to push down while you tighten the screw a few turns. DO NOT fully tighten yet.

11. Repeat step 10 for the two remaining captive screws. After you have started each screw, go back and tighten down all three screws until you feel them touch the bottom. Do not over tighten.

12. Obtain the RCS heater cable from the kit. Plug the connector into the +24 Vdc Out port on the back of the instrument as shown in the figure below.
13. Route the cable around the side of the instrument and thread it through one of the holes in the cabinet side panel. We recommend using the second row of holes as shown in the figure to the right to allow ample space for the tie wrap.

14. Secure the cable to the side panel using the tie wrap found in the kit. Cut off the excess plastic on the inside of the panel.

15. Plug the heater connector into the cable connector as shown in the figure below.

16. Make sure that the insulated connection hose between the RCS and the cooling head is not sharply bent or folded. It should curve gently.

17. Slide the cover back over the cell and replace the screws removed originally.

18. Verify that the instrument control Event switch is set to “off.”

19. Obtain access to the back of the RCS and the back of the instrument.

20. Connect the RCS Event Control port to the DSC Event Control port using the event cable. The red lead is connected to the red port on the left and the black lead is connected to the black port as shown in the figure to the right.

21. Plug the power cable into the back of the RCS and into a power outlet.

22. Set the RCS control switch to EVENT (see the figure to the left).

**NOTE:** The EVENT setting allows the RCS to be controlled by the system software. MANUAL keeps the RCS turned on continuously until it is manually shut off by the operator.

23. Check the AutoLid alignment and adjust, if needed. See "Aligning the AutoLid" in Chapter 3 of the *DSC Q Series™ Getting Started Guide* for the procedure.

24. Connect the base purge line as directed in the next section.
Connecting the Base and RCS Purge Lines

Two other purges are required in addition to the standard DSC cell purge when the Refrigerated Cooling System (RCS) is used. One purge, the Base Purge, is used to continuously purge the base of the cell. The other purge, the RCS Purge, is used to automatically purge the interior of the RCS cooling head when the cell is open during loading/unloading samples under Autosampler control (which is standard on the Q1000 and optional on the Q100) and during cell conditioning. Follow the instructions below to connect the lines for those purges.

1. Locate the Base Purge port. It is one of the four ports on the right rear of the instrument as shown in the figure below.

2. Make sure that the pressure of your gas source is regulated to 140 kPa gauge (20 psig). Dry nitrogen is the recommended gas.

3. Use 1/8-inch O.D. tubing to connect the gas source to the Base Purge. Teflon® TFE tubing is recommended. An orifice in the instrument will automatically regulate the flow rate (300 to 350 mL/min) for proper operation.

4. Locate the Cooling Gas port on the right rear of the instruments (as shown in the figure above). The RCS Purge will be connected to that port.

5. Make sure that the pressure of your gas source for the RCS Purge is also regulated to 140 kPa gauge (20 psig). Dry nitrogen should be used.

   NOTE: Since both the Base Purge and RCS Purge could be exposed to temperatures below ambient, the gases used should be moisture-free. Nitrogen gas of 99.999% purity is recommended.

6. Use 1/4-inch O.D. tubing to connect the gas source to the Cooling Gas port for the RCS Purge. Teflon® TFE tubing with Swagelock fittings is recommended. A solenoid valve automatically regulated by the Advantage Q Series™ software determines when the RCS Purge is on. An orifice in the instrument automatically regulates the flow rate.
Starting the RCS

Once the RCS has been properly installed, follow the steps below to set up the instrument parameters and condition the RCS-DSC system for optimum performance.

1. Select the correct cooler type (e.g., RCS) on the **Tools/Instrument Preferences/DSC Page** of the DSC instrument control software.

2. Verify that a source of dry nitrogen is connected to the Base Purge, Cooling Gas (RCS Purge), and Gas 1 ports on the back of the DSC instrument.

3. Dry the RCS system before turning on the RCS by following Step 1 of the conditioning procedure found in the next section, "Conditioning the RCS."

4. Verify that the RCS control switch on the RCS is set to EVENT (see page 13) and turn the power switch to ON (I). This will turn the compressor on and begin cooling the cell. Once the RCS second stage compressor has started (a few minutes later), the flange temperature will cool rapidly to its operating temperature.

   **NOTE:** The EVENT setting allows the RCS to be controlled by the instrument control software. MANUAL keeps the RCS turned on continuously until it is manually shut off. The EVENT setting allows the software to turn off the RCS in the event of a problem situation, thereby protecting against accidental moisture buildup.

5. Verify that the post-test conditions (accessed through the **Procedure Page** by clicking the **Post Test** button) are set as desired. A temperature window above ambient should be used to prevent the cell from cooling down between experiments (e.g., typical values are 35 to 50°C). Once these conditions are verified, select the **Go To Standby Temp** from the **Control** menu to invoke the standby temperature specified.

   **NOTE:** The DSC cell should be covered when not loading samples and should not be opened below ambient temperatures.

6. Proceed to Step 2 of the conditioning procedure found in the next section, "Conditioning the RCS" to further stabilize the DSC-RCS system after installation. This cyclic experiment allows the DSC-RCS system to stabilize resulting in optimized baseline and calibration.

7. Recalibrate the DSC after conditioning the system.

   **NOTE:** When setting up experiments, be sure to verify the post-test conditions. A temperature window above ambient should be used to prevent the cell from cooling below ambient between experiments.
Conditioning the RCS System

Each time the RCS cooling head is installed on the DSC the following conditioning procedure should be run before calibration and experiments are performed. The first step of conditioning is used when the system is first installed and periodically thereafter to dry the system to remove moisture in the DSC cell and cooling head BEFORE turning on the RCS. The second step is used to stabilize the DSC-RCS system by cycling the system to optimize baseline performance.

**Step 1: Drying the System**

Follow the instructions below:

1. Verify that the DSC cell is empty and cover the cell. If an AutoLid mechanism is present, verify that the lids are seated properly. (Refer to "Aligning the AutoLid in the DSC Q Series Getting Started Guide or in the online help for instructions to align the lid, if needed.)

2. Access the **Tools/Instrument Preferences/DSC Page** of the DSC instrument control software. Verify that the correct cooler type (RCS) is selected, check "Leave RCS on," and verify the desired "Standby Temperature." (If you have an Autosampler, click on the **Autosampler** page and uncheck "RCS (Event) off" as a sequence stop option.)

3. Using the DSC instrument control software, access the **Experimental View Summary Page**. Select the "Standard" mode, then select the "Cell/Cooler Conditioning" test template from the list. This test is performed with the RCS off.

4. Click on the **Procedure Page**.

5. Set the default conditions of 120 minutes at 75°C and select **Apply**. These conditions are suitable for typical situations.

6. Access the **Post Test Parameters** window and enter a temperature range window of 35 to 50°C to return the cell to slightly above ambient. Once the RCS is operating, it is very important that the cell is always kept slightly above ambient temperature before and after experiments.

7. Start the experiment.

8. Upon completion of this experiment, the base and cell purges must remain on continuously. If the purges do not remain on, the atmospheric moisture will contaminate the system and, depending on the time involved and relative humidity, the procedure may have to be repeated. The base purge is automatically active when the RCS is selected as the cooler type.

9. The RCS Purge is automatically on whenever the cell is opened by the AutoLid. (NOTE: This does not function when the cell lid is manually opened as it is on the DSC Q10.) It is strongly recommended that the cell lids be in place anytime that a sample is not being actively loaded or unloaded.
Step 2: Stabilizing the System

The following cyclic experiment is performed after the first step in order to allow the DSC-RCS system to stabilize, resulting in optimized baselines and calibration.

1. Select **Control/Event/On** from the menu. This will turn the compressor on and begin cooling the cell. Once the RCS second stage compressor has started (a few minutes later), the flange temperature will cool rapidly to its operating temperature.

2. Verify the instrument preferences and post-test conditions as outlined in steps 2 and 6 in the previous section "Drying the System."

3. Verify that the cell is emptied and cover the cell.

4. Observe the Signal Display pane. Verify that "Set Point Temperature" displayed is at the midpoint value of the Temperature Range specified on the **Post Test Parameters** window. This indicates that the post test temperature control is active. If the post test temperature control is not active (i.e., the "Set Point Temperature" reads 0.00°C), select **Go to Standby Temp** from the **Control** menu to invoke the standby temperature set on the **Instrument Preferences/DSC Page**.

5. Create and save the following "Custom" method:

   1. Data Storage On
   2. Equilibrate 50°C
   3. Isotherm 60 minutes
   4. Mark end of cycle
   5. Equilibrate 400°C
   6. Mark end of cycle
   7. Isotherm 10 minutes
   8. Mark end of cycle
   9. Equilibrate –90°C
   10. Mark end of cycle
   11. Isotherm 10 minutes
   12. Mark end of cycle
   13. Ramp 20°C/min to 400°C
   14. Mark end of cycle
   15. Isotherm 10 minutes
   16. Repeat segment 8 for 9 times

6. Start the experiment created in step 5 as soon as the flange temperature has decreased below 100°C. The flange temperature must be below 100°C when operating an RCS. If the run is started when the flange is above 100°C, then an error message will be posted and the run will be terminated. During normal operation the flange temperature should be less than –25°C at the start of a run.

After conditioning the RCS (by performing both the drying and stabilization steps), evaluate the last baseline run in the method above for any artifacts. Calibrate the DSC **before** running experiments using the RCS. See the DSC online help for details.
Chapter 3
Use & Maintenance

Guidelines When Using the RCS

Once the RCS is properly installed, the system conditioned and calibrated, the following guidelines should be maintained during standard experimental operation.

- Verify that the RCS switch is set to EVENT on the RCS unit. To turn on the RCS, select Event/On from the Control menu.

- A dry, moisture-free gas source is required as the base purge and RCS purge when using the RCS, in addition to the standard purge gas. Dry nitrogen is recommended for these purges. These gases must remain on continuously. If they do not, the atmospheric moisture will enter and contaminate the system.

- The RCS Purge is automatically on whenever the cell is opened by the AutoLid. (NOTE: This does not function when the cell lid is manually opened as it is on the DSC Q10.) It is strongly recommended that the cell lids be in place anytime that a sample is not being actively loaded or unloaded.

- Access the Tools/Instrument Preferences/DSC Page of the DSC instrument control software. Verify that the correct cooler type (RCS) is selected and check "Leave RCS on."

- When setting up experiments, be sure to verify the post-test conditions. The temperature window should be enabled and a temperature range above ambient should be used to prevent the cell from cooling down between experiments.

- When setting up an Autosampler sequence, access the Instrument Preferences/Autosampler Page and select the desired sequence-end option for the RCS. NOTE: Autosampler sequence stop options are invoked even for a one run sequence when the Autosampler is enabled.

- DO NOT open the DSC cell at below ambient temperatures.

- Once the DSC-RCS system has been conditioned, DO NOT turn off the RCS unless the system will not be used for an extended period of time (for more than 2 or 3 days). It is recommended that you do NOT turn off the RCS between runs or for overnight periods for optimal performance.

- Operating without an effective base purge, allowing the cell to remain at the lower temperature limit without heater power (e.g., without post-test conditions) for extended periods of time, and/or removing the RCS from the cell when the flange temperature is below ambient can result in excessive moisture in the cell and requires extended conditions for drying such as performing Step 1 of the conditioning procedure found in the section, "Conditioning the RCS" on page 16. In those cases, the system must be dried for much longer times.

WARNING: Do not exceed 100°C with the RCS cooling head installed and the RCS power off. Serious damage and/or injury could occur.
CAUTION: We recommend that you do not use the RCS when running isothermal experiments above 400°C. Damage to the unit can occur if used at high temperatures for extended periods.

NOTE: Once the cooling flange reaches operating temperature (~90°C), it condenses any moisture present. If the initial moisture level is too high, or if the atmosphere moisture subsequently entering the cooling head enclosure is not minimized, then artifacts can be observed in the heat flow signals. Typically, but not exclusively, the artifacts are observed between 0 and 100°C, which increase in intensity over time.

Maintaining the RCS

There is very little maintenance involved with the Refrigerated Cooling System. This section discusses general cleaning and fuse replacement, if there are problems with the RCS that this manual does not address, contact TA Instruments for service.

Cleaning the RCS

The only cleaning needed is on the outside of the unit. Wipe the surface of the unit with a damp cloth to remove any dust buildup. Make sure that the back of the RCS unit stays free of dust and debris to allow the proper ventilation of the unit. If necessary, vacuum the vents to remove any dirt or debris and allow the fans to operate freely.

Replacing the RCS Fuses

NOTE: If you feel that a fuse needs to be replaced, try the following first. Turn the power switch to the OFF position, then turn it back ON. The power switch on the RCS has an integral breaker. Overload will cause the breaker to trip. Moving the switch to the OFF position to reset the breaker will allow the unit to be turned on again if the cause of the overload has been eliminated. Operating the RCS at high temperatures is one thing that may cause an overload resulting in the breaker trip. If this does not solve the problem, proceed to replace the fuses as follows.

The Refrigerated Cooling System (RCS) may contain one or two fuses, depending upon whether you have the 120V/60 Hz model (USA) or the 230V/50Hz model.

Both fuses can be replaced by turning the fuse holder (shown here) counterclockwise to remove the holder. The fuse slips out easily. Insert a new fuse into the holder. Replace fuse with same type and rating only. Place the fuse holder back into the cabinet by turning it clockwise until it locks in place.
## Parts List

Replacement parts for the RCS that are available from TA Instruments. See the table below when ordering parts.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Part Number</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>205224.039</td>
<td>Fuse GLA for 120 V/60 Hz RCS (1.00 amp 250 V Slo Blo)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>253827.000</td>
<td>Power Cord for 120 V/60 Hz RCS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>205224.035</td>
<td>Fuse GLA for 230 V/50 Hz RCS (0.75 amp 250 V Slo Blo)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>270469.001</td>
<td>Power Cord w/o Plug for 230 V/50 Hz RCS (10 amp/220V 50 Hz)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>970076.001</td>
<td>Heat Exchanger Centering Ring</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>920223.901</td>
<td>Event Cable</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Index

A

accessories
  cooling
    RCS  9
aligning
  AutoLid  13
anti-condensate heaters  11
AutoLid
  alignment  13

C

"Cell/Cooler Conditioning” test template  16
cleaning  20
condensation  7
conditioning the RCS  16
connection hose  13
cooling accessories
  RCS  9
cooling capacity  10
cooling flange  20
cooling head
  aligning  12
  mounting  11
cooling rates  10

D

Differential Scanning Calorimeter (DSC). See also instrument
drying the system  16
DSC
  removing the cover  11
DSC-RCS system. See also system
Electromagnetic Compatibility Standards  6
Event Control port   13
fiberfrax   7
frost   7
fuses
  replacing on RCS   20
gas lines
  connecting for base purge   14
gas source   14, 19
heat exchanger   11
instrument
  cooling accessories
    RCS   9
maintenance   20
post-test conditions   15, 17, 19
power cable   13
power requirements   10
RCS
  cleaning   20
  conditioning   16
  control switch   13
  drying the system   16
  Event control port   13
  guidelines for use   19
  maintaining   20
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RCS (continued)</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>operation</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>positioning</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>replacing the fuses</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>stabilizing the system</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>starting</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>turning on and off</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>warnings</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>refrigerants</td>
<td>7, 10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Refrigerated Cooling System (RCS) 9
Regulatory Compliance 6

**S**

Safety Standards 6
Set Point Temperature 17
specifications 10
stabilizing the system 17
starting the RCS 15
system
drying 16
stabilizing 17

**T**

Teflon® ring 12
temperature range 10
tubing
base purge 14

**U**

using the RCS 19

**V**

voltages 7

**W**

weight 10